

## CLAIMS

1. A system for determining freight rates, comprising:
  - a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight rates;
  - a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module for comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the rate sheet to identify a template adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and
  - a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:
  - a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can specify information about the rate sheet.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module identifies the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to keywords in the rate sheet.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the rate sheet.
7. The system of claim 5, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module identifies the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

1           8.       The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module is adapted  
2 to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

1           9.       The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is local to the  
2 rate sheet analyzer module.

1           10.      The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is remote  
2 from the rate sheet analyzer module.

1           11.      The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote  
3                   location for analysis.

1           12.      The system of claim 11, wherein the communications module is adapted to  
2 communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a determination by the  
3 rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage module is adapted to  
4 interpret the rate sheet.

1           13.      The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate  
3                   sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

1           14.      The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial  
3                   charges for the freight rates;  
4                   wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the  
5                   freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

1           15.      The system of claim 1, wherein the rule generation module generates  
2 Prolog rules for calculating freight rates.

1           16.     A method of determining freight rates, comprising:  
2                 receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight  
3                 rates;  
4                 interfacing with a template storage module storing a plurality of templates,  
5                 each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet;  
6                 comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the  
7                 rate sheet to identify a template adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and  
8                 generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified  
9                 template and the rate sheet.

1           17.     The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

1           18.     The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

1           19.     The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 provide a user interface with which a user can specify information about the  
3                 rate sheet.

1           20.     The method of claim 16, wherein the comparing comprises:  
2                 identifying the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to  
3                 keywords in the rate sheet.

1           21.     The method of claim 20, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the  
2           rate sheet.

1           22.     The method of claim 20, wherein the identifying occurs responsive to  
2           locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

1           23.     The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:  
2                 identifying potential errors in the rate sheet.

1           24.     The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is local.

1           25.     The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is remote.

1           26.     The method of claim 16, wherein the comparing further comprises:  
2                 communicating the rate sheet to a remote location for analysis.

1           27.     The method of claim 26, wherein the communicating comprises:  
2                 communicating the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a  
3                         determination that no template in the template storage module is  
4                         adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

1           28.     The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 receiving templates adapted to interpret rate sheets; and  
3                 providing the templates to the template storage module.

1           29.     The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 accepting data representative of accessorial charges for the freight rates; and  
3                 generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the accessorial  
4                         charges.

1           30.     The method of claim 16, wherein the generated rules comprise Prolog  
2     rules.

1           31.     A computer program product comprising:  
2                 a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied  
3                         therein for determining freight rates, the computer program logic  
4                         comprising:  
5                         a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet,  
6                         the rate sheet specifying freight rates;

7 a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage  
8 module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted  
9 to interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer  
10 module for comparing the plurality of templates in the template  
11 storage module with the rate sheet to identify a template adapted to  
12 interpret the rate sheet; and  
13 a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight  
14 rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.

1 32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet is in a  
2 spreadsheet format.

1 33. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet  
2 specifies zone-based rates.

1 34. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer  
2 program logic further comprises:  
3 a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can  
4 specify information about the rate sheet.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet  
2 analyzer module identifies the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to  
3 keywords in the rate sheet.

1 36. The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the keywords signify  
2 types of data in the rate sheet.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the rate sheet  
2 analyzer module identifies the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the  
3 rate sheet.

1           38.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet  
2 analyzer module is adapted to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

1           39.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage  
2 module is local to the rate sheet analyzer module.

1           40.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage  
2 module is remote from the rate sheet analyzer module.

1           41.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer  
2 program logic further comprises:

3                 a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote  
4                         location for analysis.

1           42.     The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the communications  
2 module is adapted to communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a  
3 determination by the rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage  
4 module is adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

1           43.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer  
2 program logic further comprises:

3                 a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate  
4                         sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

1           44.     The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer  
2 program logic further comprises:

3                 an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial  
4                         charges for the freight rates;

5                 wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the  
6                         freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

- 1           45.    The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rule generation  
2   module generates Prolog rules for calculating freight rates.

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